



B A T M A N
 LEGENDS OF THE
DARK KNIGHT

NO 65 NOV 94
 195 UK125 CAN 275



52+5M

**GOING
 SANE**

part one de matteis • staton • mitchell



ALL PARK RIDGE!
THE SAFEST
SWEETEST
NEIGHBORHOOD
IN GOTHAM!

WHERE YOUR NEIGHBOR
ACTUALLY KNOWS YOUR NAME
AND YOUR CHILDREN CAN
STILL PLAY IN THE STREET
AFTER DARK!

WHERE YIPPIES AND
BUDDIES FLOCK TO RAISE
THEIR LITTLE GUPPIES
IN REFURBISHED BROWN-
STONE-- PROUD TESTIMONY
TO THE POWER OF
URBAN RENEWAL!

IN A CITY OVERWHELMED WITH VIOLENCE, ENGULFED IN
FEAR AND SUSPICION, PARK RIDGE IS SA OASIS
OF PEACE...NORMALCY!

A CONCERTED EFFORT TO
RETURN TO KINDER
GENTLER TIMES:

AN ERA OF MAIN STREETS AND COMMON COURTESY...
FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS AND MUTUAL RESPECT!

SO IT SEEMS FITTING,
DOESN'T IT, THAT THESE
HAPPY CITIZENS LOOK
UP WILLOW AVENUE
ON THIS SWAMY
SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY...

..AND FIND A GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED
PARADE PASSING BY?

LOOK HOW THE FACES OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG
AND OLD ALIKE, LIGHT UP WHEN THEY CATCH
SIGHT OF UNCLE SAM ON HIS STILTS...

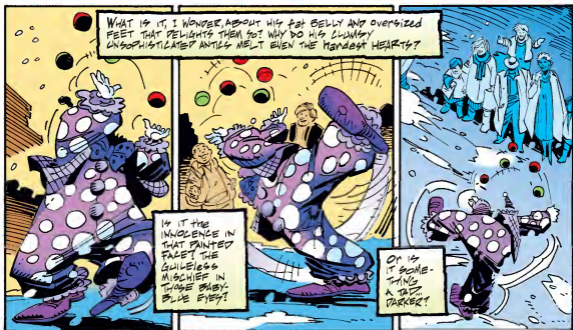
..AND THE HAPPY
LITTLE MONKEYS
DANCING TO THE
ACCORDIONIST'S
TUNE!

BUT
BEST OF
ALL...



...CATCH THE WAVE OF EXCITEMENT THAT PIPPIES THROUGH THEM WHEN THEY SEE...

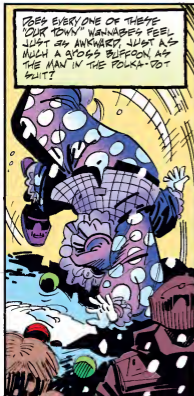
...the CLOWN!



WHAT IS IT, I WONDER, ABOUT HIS FAT BELLY AND OVERSIZED FEET THAT DELIGHTS THEM SO? WHY DO HIS CLUMSY UNSOPHISTICATED ANTLES MELT EVEN THE HARDEST HEARTS?

IS IT THE INNOCENCE IN THAT PAINTED FACE? THE GUILELESS MISCHIEF IN THOSE BABY-BLUE EYES?

OR IS IT SOMETHING A TAD DARKER?



DOES EVERY ONE OF THESE "OUR TOWN" WANNABES FEEL JUST AS AWKWARD, JUST AS MUCH A GROSS BLISSFON AS THE MAN IN THE POLKA-DOT SUIT?



DO THEY KNOW THAT THEIR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT A SO-CALLED "NORMAL" LIFE ARE DOOMED TO UTTER, ABSOLUTE FAILURE?

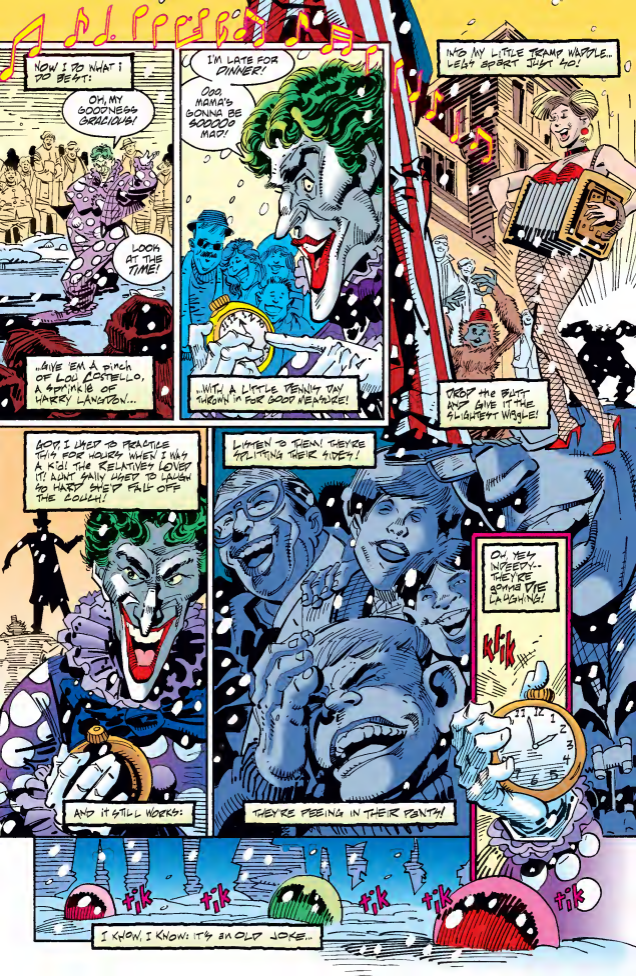
THAT THEY'RE ALL-EACH AND EVERY ONE...

HEADED FOR A PRATEFALL OF COSMIC PROPORTIONS?



IF THEY DON'T, THEY WILL SOON ENOUGH.

AND SO WILL EATMAN!



NOW I DO WHAT I DO BEST:

OH, MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS!

LOOK AT THE TIME!

...GIVE 'EM A PINCH OF LOU COSTELLO, A SPRINKLE OF HARRY LANGEVIN...

I'M LATE FOR DINNER!

OOO, MAMA'S GONNA BE SOOOOOO MAO!

...WITH A LITTLE PENNY DAY THROWN IN FOR GOOD MEASURE!

IT'S MY LITTLE TRAMP WAGGLE... LET'S SPORT JUST 40!

CRAB THE BUTT AND GIVE IT THE SLIGHTEST WAGGLE!

GOD I USED TO PRACTICE THIS FOR HOURS WHEN I WAS A KID! THE RELATIVES LOVED IT! AUNT SALLY USED TO LAUGH SO HARD SHE'D FALL OFF THE COUCH!

LISTEN TO THEM! THEY'RE SPLITTING THEIR SIDES!

OH YEAH INEEDY-- THEY'RE SOME DYE LAUGHING!

AND IT STILL WORKS:

THEY'RE PEEING IN THEIR PANTS!

I KNOW, I KNOW: IT'S AN OLD JOKE...

tik

tik

tik

tik

tik



...but this is a classic!

BA-

PA-

B

BOOM!

BOOM!

BOOM!

GOING GANE

Into the *Reshaping River* 1

j.m. De MATTEIS writer	joe STATON penciller	steve MITCHELL inker	willie SCHUBERT letterer	digital CHAMELEON colorist	jim SPIVEY assoc. editor	archie GOODWIN editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE						

Twice I've faced him—and twice he's died.
What made me think the second time would
be any more permanent than the first?

His kind of madness
never really dies. It
just keeps cycling back,
again and again...

AM **GAZETTE**
JOKER'S BACK!

OUR DIE
EVEN DIE
INJURED IN
'CIRCUS'
BOMBING



FOOD KIN

ELECTRONICS

PHOTO
SNAP SHOP

POLICE

POLICE LINE CROSS POLICE LINE

...to destroy all
that's good...

...to corrupt all that's innocent.

HURRY UP...
BEFORE SOMEONE
SEES US!

WHO'S GONNA SEE
US? IT'S THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT!

LOOK--MAYBE WE
SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS. I MEAN, IF
OUR FOLKS EVER FOUND OUT--

HEY--HOW OFTEN DOES
THIS KINDA CHANCE COME
ALONG? IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE
GONNA DO ANYTHING LIKE
THIS AGAIN.

WE GRAB
A FEW TAPE
DECKS AND VCRs--
NOBODY'S GONNA
EVEN KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE.

I'LL
KNOW.

OH...
KA-RIPES!

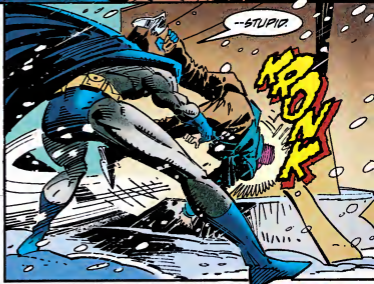
AND
SO WILL
YOU.

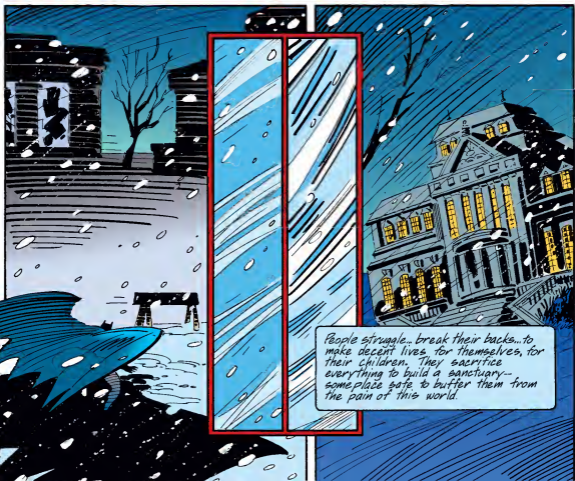
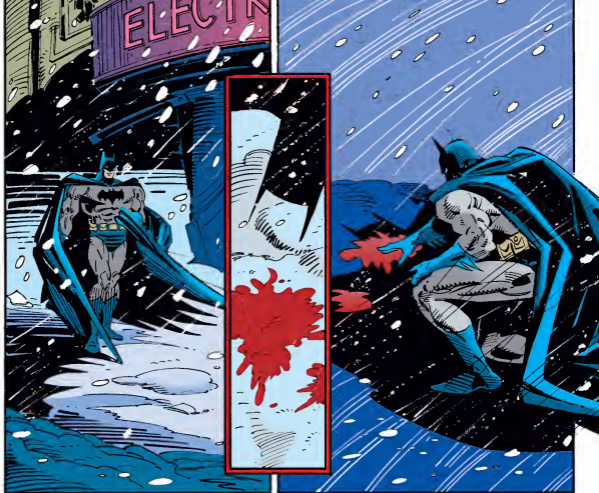
THERE'S
A THIN LINE
BETWEEN ORDER
AND CHAOS. YOU
JUSTIFY CROSSING
IT THIS ONCE--
YOU'LL JUSTIFY
IT AGAIN.

AND
AGAIN.

AND
THE CHAOS
WILL HAVE
WON.

JOKER WILL
HAVE CLAIMED
THREE MORE
VICTIMS.





People struggle... break their backs... to make decent lives for themselves, for their children. They sacrifice everything to build a sanctuary-- someplace safe to buffer them from the pain of this world.

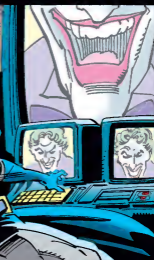
And then the Devil
comes waltzing back...

...to tear down the walls.

There has to be a line that
can't be crossed. There
has to be a guardian of
the safe places.

I once looked into a face like
yours, Joker. Same malicious
eyes. Same arrogant sneer.

I watched that face destroy everything I loved.





HE'S SMELLED THE BLOOD... HE'S ON THE TRAIL! BUT NOW I NEED SOME TASTY BAIT!



SOMETHING SOFT AND PRETTY AND WARM!



A DANZEL IN DISTRESS...

TAXI!



LOOK I KNOW THE WEATHER'S AWFUL... BUT I'VE BEEN OUT HERE TRYING TO GET A CAB FOR AN HOUR NOW. I MEAN, WITH THE SNOWSTORM AND ALL...

WORKING LATE, HUH?

YEAH, I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO BAD OUT HERE...

NO PROB! NO PROB! HOP IN!



GREAT, YOU'RE A REAL LIFE-SAVER.

I'M GOING UP TO SEVENTY-SECOND BETWEEN BREWSTER AND--

NO, YOU'RE NOT!

EXCUSE ME?



BEAUTIFUL GAL LIKE YOU... SPENDING ALL YOUR TIME AT THE OFFICE!

YOU NEED TO GET OUT MORE! LOOSEN UP! HAVE A FEW LAUGHS!

HERE-- LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!

HAAA-HA-HA-HA-HAAAA

...FOR THE GALANT KNIGHT TO RESCUE!

STUPID, SOUR
FACE! BATTERED
BLUFFON! HE'S A
BIGGER CLOWN
THAN I AM!

THINKS THE WORLD CAN
BE STACKED AND FOLDED
AND FILED! THINKS
THERE'S LOGIC AND
MEANING AND ORDER!



OH,
THIS IS
RICH!

THIS
IS RICH!

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE
SLIPS ON A BANANA PEEL, HE NEVER
SEES THE HUMOR! NEVER GETS
THE JOKE! IT'S SO INFURIATING!

I
Hate
him!

AH,
CHARLIE-BOY...
YOU'RE THE
BEST--

tee-hee-
tee!

OH, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL! AFTER ALL--HE
PROES PROVIDE ME WITH MY
GREATEST AUDIENCE! MY
GREATEST CHALLENGE!

BWA-HA-
HA-HA-HA--

...HA...?

BUT ONE OF
THESE FINE DAYS
I'M GOING TO
SLIP HIM THAT
ALINE EXPLODING
CIGAR, AND...
PA...a...BOOM...!

--NEXT TO ME
OF COURSE!

WHY,
MY DEAR, SWEET
COUNCIL WOMAN
KENNER--

--YOU'RE NOT
LAUGHING!

I GO TO ALL THE
TROUBLES OF WHISKING YOU OFF
THE STEPS OF CITY HALL IN THE
MIDDLE OF A BLIZZARD--

--PLY YOU WITH
WITH POPCORN AND THE
FINEST SODA POP LARCENY
CAN BUY--

--RUN
TWO HAROLD LLOYDS,
A LAUREL AND HARDY, AND
TOP IT OFF WITH AN UTTERLY
BRAILLIANT CHARLIE--





AND

YOU'RE

STILL

...BATIE-BOYCHICK'S GONNA
BREAK INTO MORE PIECES
THAN WILE E. LOYTE!

↑SIGH: NOT SO
MUCH AS A SNICKER! OR
EVEN A TITTER!

WELL,
I HATE TO STOOP
THIS LOW--

--BUT MAYBE
IF I RAN A MARTIN
AND LEWIS!



NOT

LAUGHING?!



ANYTHING
TO BRING A
LITTLE LEVITY INTO
YOUR GRIM AND
HUMDRUM
LIFE--

...MY
DEAR, SWEET
COUNCILWOMAN
KENNER!

How many hours?
How many false
leads? How
many useless,
infuriating
dead-ends?

But I can't let my
anger get the better
of me. I can't lose
control. Then I'll be
playing it his way,
I'll be caught in the
current of his
madness.

...that he
can't bear
to work in
secret.

He's bound to
announce
himself...

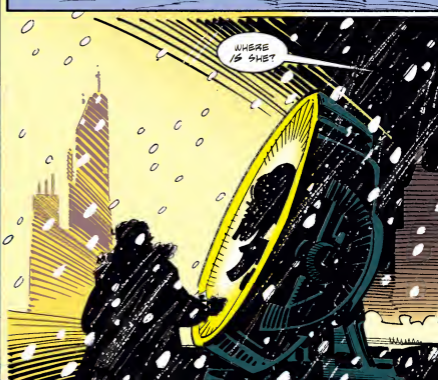


...sooner or
later.

I'll drown.

If I can just be
patient a little
while longer, I
know he'll show
himself. It's not
in his nature to
keep hidden.
He's so arrogant...
such a shameless
egotist...

WHERE
IS SHE?







Control



Frank Maguire: petty thief.
Numbers runner. Low man on
everybody's totem pole.

ANOTHER
OF HIS LITTLE JOSES,
FRANKIE?

Why didn't I see
it? An idiot would
have seen it!

LOOK...TAKE
IT EASY, OHAY? TAKE
IT EASY!

WANTED
ME T'DELIVER
YOU A
MESSAGE--

THEN
DELIVER
IT.

HE SAYS...SAYS
HE'S GOT MENNER
UPSTATE SOMEWHERE.
WANTS YOU T'LOVE
AN' GET T'ER.

IT'S ALL HERE...
ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS.
HE...AH...HE GAVE YA A MAP
AN' EVERYTHING--

YES.
I'M SURE HE
DID.

Just knowing he's out
there -- laughing at
everything that
matters to me -- is
clouding my abilities to
observe...to reason.

Making me
sloppy.

He's
winning.

Pragging
me down.

K
K
K
R
R
R
S
H
S

But this
is where
it ends.

WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP

I stop him. I
take him in.
And I do it my
way, not his.

WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP

WUP-WUP!
WUPFITY-
WUP!

Because as soon
as I begin to echo
that lunatic, in
even the subtlest
ways...

...I'm finished.

I might as well have
pulled the trigger on
the gun that killed
my parents.

HERE HE COMES, SNOOPING OUT
OF THE CLOUDS IN ANOTHER OF
THOSE SILLY TOYS HE'S
OBSESSED WITH! BATMOBILE...
BATCOPTER!

I WONDER IF HE'S GOT A
BETTFOTTY AT HOME?

AND PEOPLE SAY
I'M CRAZY?

WELL,
COME ON, SAINT
FLEDERMAUS,
THE GRIM--



--TIME TO WIN ANOTHER VICTORY FOR LAW, ORDER, AND NORMAN ROCKWELL!

BUT NORMAN ROCKWELL'S DEAD, Y'KNOW!

JUST LIKE LITTLE MISS COUNCIL-WOMAN'S GOING TO BE IN JUST A FEW ITSY-BITSY SECONDS!



IT'S ME YOU WANT, JOKER, WHY NOT LET--

--LET HER GOT AND TAKE YOU INSTEAD?

DID YOU HEAR THAT, DARLING? HE REALLY IS DECENCY INCARNATE, ISN'T HE?

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP, BATMAN? INSIDE A ROCKWELL PAINTING?

I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW--

--SOME PERRRFECT LITTLE CHILDHOOD.. FISHING WITH DAD.. MAKING JAM WITH MOM...



...PLAYING BASEBALL WITH BOBBY, BILLY, AND JIM OUT IN THE OLD LOT BEHIND THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL!



WHAT A LOAD OF

BLAM



SURPRISE!



IT WAS JUST A BLOW-UP DOLL! BEST A GUY LIKE ME CAN DO ON SATURDAY NIGHT!

WHERE'S KENNER--?!

I LET HER GO HOURS AGO--

--SHE'S OUT THERE WANDERING IN THE WOODS RIGHT NOW-- TRYING TO FIND HER WAY BACK TO GOOD OL' GOTHAM!



AH... GOTHAM-- NOW THERE'S A TOWN FOR ME! ROCKWELL WOULD'VE ENDED UP IN A STRAITJACKET TRYING TO PAINT HER.

EVEN HIERONYMUS BOSCH WOULD'VE GIVEN UP IN DISSUST!

JOKERRRR!

THAT'S M'NAME! ASK ME AGAIN I'LL TELL YA THE SAME!



Oooo! HE DOES NOT LOOK HAPPY!

IN FACT, I THINK HE INTENDS TO DO ME BODILY HARM!

I DON'T MIND THE WHIPS AND CHAINS ONCE IN A WHILE, BATSY-BOOBY--

--BUT ONLY WHEN I ASK FOR THEM!



WELL, WE'RE RUNNING A LITTLE LATE, FOLKS--

--SO WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SAY GOOD NIGHT!

TUNE IN THE SAME TIME NEXT WEEK, WHEN I'LL BE BACK WITH MY WHOLE GANG FOR ANOTHER FUN-FILLED HALF-HOUR OF RADIO COMEDY--



--BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GOOD PEOPLE AT THE ACME EXPLODING CIGAR COMPANY!

BYE NOW!

He did it to me again!



I should have known it wasn't Kenner -- just like I should have recognized Maguire!

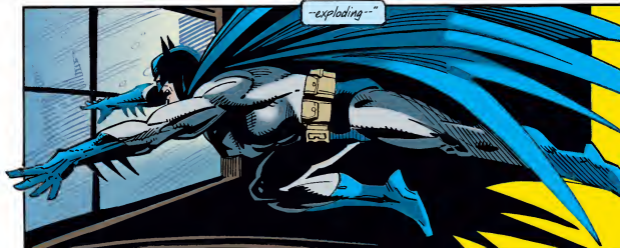
But I keep letting him get to me! If I don't stop acting like some amateur and--

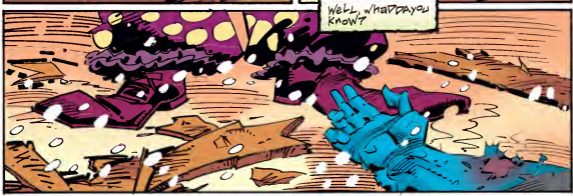


Wait a minute!

Acme--

--exploding--





Well, whaddya you know?



IT WORKED!

NAH! CAN'T BE!

THE VILLAIN'S DEATH-TRAPS NEVER WORK! THE HERO ALWAYS EXECUTES A MIRACULOUS, LAST-MINUTE ESCAPE!

...HE ROCKS ME ON THE JAW!

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE PLAYING A FOOL!



WHICH MEANS HE'S PLAYING PESSIM! WAITING FOR JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT AND THEN...

ZAP! BOW! BIFF!

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY: YOU CAN'T FOOL A FOOLER--

--OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

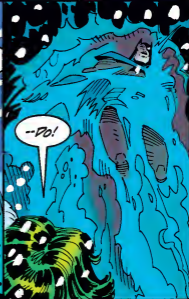
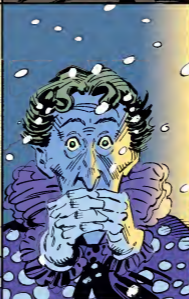
SO LET'S STOP THIS IDIOLY RIGHT NOW!



GET UP!

ON YOUR FEET!





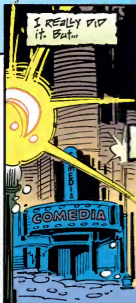


WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--GUESS THE CURTAIN'S DOWN FOR GOOD THIS TIME--

--IT'S BEEN A TERRIFIC RUN--

--BUT, HEY--

--WE'VE ALL GOTTA GO SOMETIME!



I REALLY DID IT, BATMAN!



SSOOORRY...

...WHAT EXACTLY DID I DO?

...YOU'VE STUCK.

I KNOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KILL THE AUDIENCE-- BUT, AFTER THEY'RE DEAD...



IF THERE'S NO ONE OUT THERE IN THE DARK TO PLAY TO... THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?



IF THERE'S NO BATMAN TO DRIVE ME CRAZY, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEING CRAZY?



I... I THINK I'M GONNA PUKE, I THINK I'M GONNA CRY.



BUT I CAN'T CRY: MY MAKEUP'LL RUN. BUT IT'S NOT MAKEUP, IS IT?

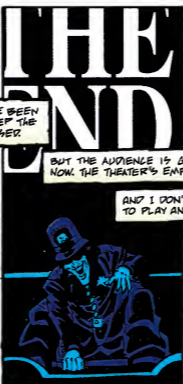


IT'S ME!



NO, IT'S NOT ME.
NOT ME AT ALL.

IT'S A ROLE I'VE BEEN
PLAYING, TO KEEP THE
AUDIENCE AMUSED.



BUT THE AUDIENCE IS GONE
NOW. THE THEATER'S EMPTY.

AND I DON'T HAVE
TO PLAY ANYMORE.



BA-BA-BOOM!!!

COMEDIA



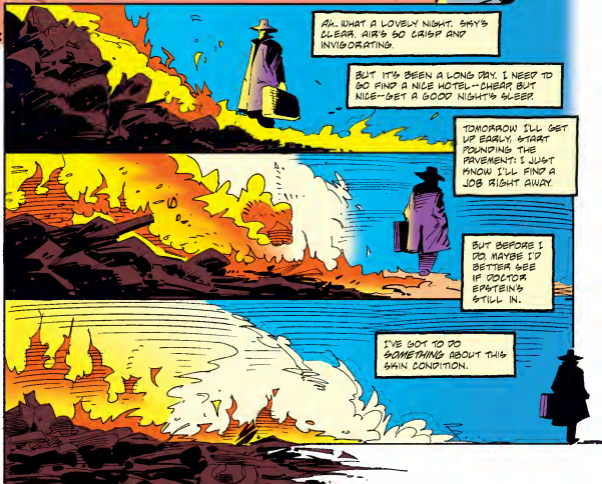
AA... WHAT A LOVELY NIGHT. SKYS CLEAR. AIR'S SO CRISP AND INVIGORATING.

BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. I NEED TO GO FIND A NICE HOTEL--CHEAP BUT NICE--GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

TOMORROW I'LL GET UP EARLY, START POUNDING THE PAVEMENT. I JUST KNOW I'LL FIND A JOB RIGHT AWAY.

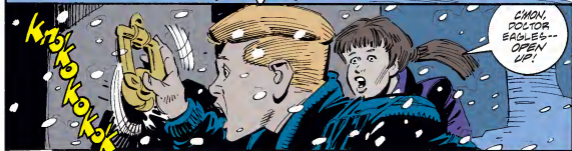
BUT BEFORE I DO, MAYBE I'D BETTER SEE IF DOCTOR EPSTEIN'S STILL IN.

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SKIN CONDITION.





DOCTOR
EAGLES! DOCTOR
EAGLES!



KIKO
KOKO
KOKO

C'MON,
DOCTOR
EAGLES--
OPEN
UP!



MIKE
MORICE?

LISA
GILLAND?

WHAT IN
THE WORLD
ARE YOU
TWO--?

WE
FOUND SOMETHING!
SOMEBODY! DOWN BY
THE RIVER!



FOUND--? NOW WHAT
WERE YOU DOING DOWN BY THE RIVER
AT THIS TIME OF--

NEVER
MIND THAT! THERE'S
A MAN DOWN
THERE!

A DEAD
MAN-- AT LEAST THAT'S
WHAT WE THOUGHT
AT FIRST!

BUT,
DOCTOR
EAGLES--



--HE'S ALIVE!

next month:
GOING SANE
part two--
"Swimming
Lessons!"

MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**